

# A Munificent Gift

A Novel Method of starting Housekeeping that will be interesting to every reader. Written for the Richmond Daily Register.

On the morning of Wednesday Feb. 1st, there appeared in the Toronto Globe the following notice:

"Married—on the 21st ultimo, Miss Virginia Schofield and Col. Paul C. Churchill, at the First Baptist church by the Rev. A. E. Watson."

A letter to Henry Schofield, of Richmond, announcing the event soon brought a reply, for Virginia was, as Uncle Henry declared the only one left for him to take care of. He wrote very effusively of his delight at her wedding and proposed that if Paul and Virginia were to locate at Richmond and grow up with the country, he would bestow upon them such a gift as would enable them to have a nice home and live comfortably the rest of their days.

"This," wrote Henry, "will be my wedding gift to you. I don't know anything better for you to do, for Richmond has a delightful, wholesome social life you will like. I know and, with its wonderful farming community around, offers some splendid opportunities. We have a great, live little city here and you'll feel at home in no time. In fact, Kentucky is the most suitable place for a young couple to start in life that I know of."

About 10 days subsequently a two-wheeled party arrived in Richmond. Henry, though 60 years of age, was on hand at the J. & N. depot to greet the couple and as he shook hands with both of them at once, his face once more showed the gleam of youth and his feet were as spry as the young couple to start in life that I know of."

"Well," said Uncle Henry, "as they rode over to the Glyndon, I hope you young folks enjoyed your trip south. Didn't you find it a little tiresome?"

"I should say not," replied Virginia. "I never enjoyed a trip more in my life. We had lovely weather all the way down and the scenery was the most beautiful I have ever seen. It was simply grand."

"I'm glad you had such a nice trip," said Henry, "though I guess you were glad to get here. Well, here we are, and I have your rooms already engaged for you."

"This is the Hotel Glyndon," said Uncle as they entered. "They have their 60 rooms beautifully furnished, many of them having private bath, and everything is so thoroughly up-to-date from cellar to roof that everybody who comes here says there isn't a finer hotel in this part of the state. I've reserved a beautiful suite for you on the second floor and you will soon be fixed as comfortable as can be."

The party was cordially greeted by Mr. P. M. Smyer, the general proprietor, after which the young folks were shown to their suite, which greatly pleased Virginia by the luxury of its furnishings.

Virginia and Paul appeared at 8 o'clock, feeling much improved after removing the stains of travel and a short nap, and after enjoying one of the Glyndon's famous evening dinners, they retired to the mezzanine where Virginia entertained them with the brilliancy of her musical renditions.

"I know I'm going to enjoy it here," she said, as leaving the mezzanine, they entered their suite, "for we have such lovely accommodations. It's just as comfy as can be."

"I thought you would like it," replied Henry.

"The older you get the more you will learn to appreciate a good hotel," said he. "Richmond is fortunate in having a hotel that makes one feel thoroughly at home the moment you enter the lobby, and that is what Mr. Tussey at the desk of the Glyndon Hotel aims to do. I have lived around a good deal in my life and I certainly do appreciate Mr. Smyer's efforts to make one feel so thoroughly at home for he conducts the Glyndon on the Statler hotel's principle—no matter what the argument is, the guest is right, for his hotel is conducted with both courtesy and service. The dining room cuisine, if you noticed, was above the average also, as it is under the charge of an able chef whose years of experience amply qualify him to satisfy the epicurean demands of a discriminating public. I have heard many favorable comments from the traveling men stopping here on the cuisine and courteous service, for we of Richmond feel that we are able to

play the hospitable host to any size number of guests who may visit us without any apology on our part. I don't care how elegantly a hotel is furnished, one never feels at home if the wrong man is at the head of it. Mr. Smyer is an able manager, for many years of business experience and his affability of manner and his knowledge of how to make friends and keep them with the traveling public has won for him a host of admiring acquaintances."

Tired out with travel, the little company broke up after dinner that evening and retired for the night. In the morning after the usual greetings had been given and the breakfast partaken of, Uncle Henry, in his original manner, said, "Well, folks, I think as soon as we get some cigars that we would best be looking at a house or two, so we'll just phone to the garage and have them send down my Dodge."

As they seated themselves in Uncle Henry's sedan a few minutes later and were whirling out Main street, Virginia remarked, "Well, Uncle, isn't this a most exhilarating ride, and such a beautiful machine, too? How noiselessly and smoothly it runs. Do they use many of them here?"

"Quite a number," replied Henry. "The Woods and White Company are one of our most progressive firms and since they started selling the Dodge Brothers cars, have sold quite a number of them. In my opinion they have the best machine on the market, and one I have found, by experience, gets the least out of order, and a prettier, more easily running car I don't know of, for it combines power, lightness, compactness, with flexibility and economy of operation. Take this 1922 Dodge sedan we are riding in, and notice the luxurious upholstery and mechanical devices. What more can you ask in a car equipped as it is, and with road tires as standard equipment, selling as it does now for \$365 delivered in Richmond. It is mechanical perfection and will stand up under most any kind of usage you give it."

"It certainly is a beauty," Virginia exclaimed, "and am I going to be taught to run it?"

"Indeed, you are, my dear, and better than that. While this car is big enough for us all, I have bought you, for your own use in shopping and to make calls, a Dodge Brothers three seat coupe, that I consider one of the prettiest cars of the year."

"I want you both to meet Mr. R. G. Woods and Mr. W. H. White when we go back," continued Uncle Henry. "They are a thoroughly responsible firm, in fact, that is one of the main reasons why I chose the Dodge Brothers car for you—you are buying from a local company that possesses financial strength and stability and in case anything should go wrong you have the Dodge Brothers immediate organization to make your complaint good, for they stock a complete line of parts at all times. They have a splendid service station in a thoroughly modern, steam heated garage, with a mechanical repair and rebuilding department of seven men who are real experts in their line. You take my word for it, I'm solid on a Dodge."

"If you are fond of commotions, Virginia," said Uncle, as they drove along, "here is one Mr. Sauley was telling me the other day, and he says the Daily Register will give \$10.00 in gold to the person who sends in the most artistic correct answer by Thursday, March 2nd."

"Well, what is it?" laughingly inquired Virginia. "You have me interested."

"Here it is," replied Henry, pulling out a sheet of paper:

"A single I am, a twin I am never;

A triplet I am, though my parts you can sever. Search well for me here, but bear this in mind: The more you discover, the less you will find."

"What's the answer?" questioned Paul, with much curiosity. "The answer," replied Henry, "Mr. Sauley tells me is PRINTED IN THE FOUR LINES of the puzzle, and you study it out for a while, or I'll tell you exactly what it is before we get through for you will enjoy it, I

know."

In answer to Dave's question as to where they wanted to go, Uncle Henry replied: "Just drive around the city. Murphy. We want to look at a bit of Mother Earth. It's the basis of a home, Paul." It was an ideal winter's day for the trip and their journey was made all the more enjoyable by Uncle Henry pointing out the various places of interest en route. After driving around for awhile and looking over several houses Uncle Henry exclaimed: "Take us to that house, Dave, where we were the other day. This house, Paul is in a dandy, select neighborhood, with a lot 50x250 feet deep and is high, dry, beautifully laid out and less than a mile from the postoffice—there it is—see what you youngsters think of it."

"Perfectly lovely," exclaimed Virginia, stepping from the auto, as they drove up to the house on West Main street. "Oh, wouldn't it be nice to live out here? Just notice how clear and fresh the air is."

Paul was equally enthusiastic and uncle, pleased, began at once to tell of the advantages of buying such a home. "You see," he said, "this double lot and house with a concrete driveway to the garage can be bought at a remarkably attractive figure. It has six delightful, big rooms that only need repapering to suit your taste, and with water, sewerage gas and telephone, it means you will have every modern convenience. There is also a dandy modern bath, and we'll have it wired a little more conveniently for Virginia's electric appliances. The garage is all right but we'll sell it and put up a two-car garage with room to work in, for I'm just old-fashioned enough to like to take care of a guest properly and not chase his car down to a public garage or leave it out in the weather, so by expending \$700 to \$800 in improvements to suit your own ideas will give you a home to be proud of, for it is a good street. It seems there is no better bargain to be had anywhere," Virginia and Paul both agreed with Uncle Henry and were anxious to "finish the deal" as Paul termed it.

"All right," said Uncle Henry. "Dave, take us down to the Freeman Realty Company."

It did not take long to reach the offices on Main street and uncle, after introducing the couple to Mr. L. W. Dunbar, the general manager, had the paper drawn up, deeding to Virginia the property. Virginia was very happy when they left, while Uncle Henry remarked how well he liked to deal with Mr. Dunbar.

"You know there are real estate firms who are always looking for the best end of it but I've known Mr. Dunbar for several years now and have always found him a man of business responsibility and integrity. He does a big business here in farm and city property, loans and investments for he is the most active real estate man in town. I'm mighty glad you liked the property we bought for I somehow always wanted to live there."

"Poultry, fruit and bees make a good combination for a small farmer," remarked Uncle, "which reminds me of another good commodity, Virginia, that Mr. Dunbar handed me the other day. Why is a beehive like a bad potato?"

"I haven't been able to think of anything but those pretty Normal School girls I saw at the depot last night," remarked Paul. "Nice thing for a young married man to say," laughed Uncle, "but you get busy with some grape-nuts and think it over, or maybe I'll tell you after a while. You remind me."

"Now we are up to the lumber question for your new garage," said Uncle Henry, "so before we go any further, suppose we drive over to the Savage-Smith Lumber Company. I have known them for some time and I'm sure they will give us a square deal. They carry the most complete stock in this part of the country, everything from sills to shingles, and from tree to consumer. Their motto is, 'Everything in lumber to build your home.'"

"They have the best yard in Richmond," continued Uncle, after making the folks acquainted with Mr. E. W. Savage, the President, and Mr. P. W. Smith, the Vice-President, and Mr. C. E. Whalen, the Secretary-Treasurer of the company, "where you can get any-

thing needed for a modern house as they take orders for all kinds of interior works and grills to order, and can turn out anything desired. Their goods are always uniform, the milling is perfect, and a point I especially like is, all their flooring, rustic, ceiling, and finishing lumber is kiln dried and that means that your home won't shrink apart, as so many houses do. They are supplied from some of the best up-to-date mills in the country with hardwood, such as quarter sawed oak, birch, maple and cypress, used in interior finishing. Then all their finishing lumber is kept under cover, and that's what carpenters like—nice, dry lumber. Their yards are backed up by the best mills in the country, so their stock is always up to the minute, and as for prices; well, there is no yard around here that can quote the prices which the Savage-Smith Company can quote. People wanting to build, as a rule, like to see what they can do, but invariably they come back to them for all they need."

"Some very fine houses are of material from this yard, for instance, the homes of Mrs. Jonah Wagers, Mr. J. H. Oldham, and Mr. W. W. Broadbent in this city," Dave Cobb, out on the Lexington Pike and W. M. Black, on the Speedwell Pike, and prettier homes you won't see around here."

"That was certainly some lumber yard," exclaimed Paul as they rode away.

"Indeed it is," Henry answered. "They have a big investment here, and this big business was built up by giving their customers just a little bit better grade at no higher price than could be obtained elsewhere. I've purchased my lumber here for my houses."

"Virginia," said Henry as, having said good-by to Mr. Whalen, they started again, "the coming warm weather, together with our preparations for going to housekeeping, has brought to my mind the memory of my own early married life. When your Aunt Jennie and I were married there was no gas used for either cooking or light; I have many recollections of seeing Jennie, after having prepared a meal over her wood or coal fire, and on a warm summer's day, come to the table with a flushed face—wet with perspiration—and too utterly exhausted to enjoy even the most tempting morsel which she had prepared."

"Today the wise woman uses neither wood nor coal. She cooks with gas, and she knows it to be the cleanest, coolest and cheapest heat in the world—so we'll run over and arrange for your meter and service from the street."

"I never used one," said Virginia, as entering the office of the Richmond Water and Light Company, one of the most thorough business offices in the city, and being introduced to Mr. Ben R. Dougherty, the Superintendent, they stood admiring one of the many makes of "Detroit Jewel" gas ranges, that were on display.

"But I know they must save a whole lot of bother," said Virginia. "Not only that," replied Henry, "but they are so cheaply operated. In fact, to my mind, I don't see how any family can afford to be without one."

Mr. Dougherty next called their attention to the latest model of the Rund automatic gas water heater, explaining how the heater automatically operates by turning on any hot water faucet in the house, and when the faucet is closed the gas in the heater shuts off.

"That's what I call one of the things sold here 'that makes a woman's life worth while,'" exclaimed Henry. "We'll have one installed sure."

"There is no dirt, no ashes to clean up, no cinders or soot, it is equally kind to a woman's temper as it is to her house furnishings and curtains. The whole city within its limits, is piped for it."

"How is your water here?" inquired Paul. "Is it good?"

"The State Board of Health says so," replied Henry, "and they are mighty emphatic about it. Our two reservoirs hold 100,000,000 gallons of good surface water, which is purified by chlorine gas, too. The company have lately until it is known as chemically pure. They test it every month, overhauled their two big compound pumps, which give us a city pressure of about 70 pounds, unless we have a fire, when it is instantly raised to 150 lbs. pressure, which makes the Richmond Water Company one of the most up-to-date in Central Kentucky."

"What is the most interesting part of going to housekeeping, Virginia?" inquired Henry, as they left the gas office.

"Selecting good furniture and pretty draperies," replied that wise young person promptly. "That's so," laughingly answered Henry, "and here is where we get wonderfully busy."

Entering the beautiful store of the W. F. Higgins Company, a few moments later, they were taken in charge by Mr. M. C. Murphy, and courteously shown through the various departments that rather bewildered Virginia by the display that she found there. It was interesting to watch her expressions of pleasure as she journeyed from floor to floor making her selections for the soon to be chosen a handsome two-toned walnut suite in Queen Anne style, with bow-end bed and a triple vanity dresser for her own bedroom, another suite with four poster bed in mahogany with a chifferdole for Uncle Henry's bedroom, a handsome ivory suite with bow-end bed and vanity dresser for her guest room, a day-bed table with rocker, a

day bed, with three piece overstuffed dayenette suite in a beautiful dark blue tapestry for her living room, a nine-piece Queen Anne period suite in genuine walnut with round table for her dining room, several odd pieces in rockers and a Royal easy chair for lobby.

"Now, what kind of covering do you want for your floors, Virginia?" he inquired.

"Why, I'd like Smith Axminster rugs for my bedrooms and Kleenax rugs for my dining room and for my library," she replied, "for being sanitary, they are so easily kept clean."

"You couldn't select more durable ones," he assented. "For buying them direct from the makers their prices cannot be equalled anywhere."

"And here are two other important household articles—a Sellers kitchen cabinet with automatic lowering floor bin that will save you many useless steps, and a White Mountain enamel refrigerator that will last you a lifetime. And pick out several of these beautiful library and floor lamps; they do much to add to the coziness of a home. And while here let us select a handsome Columbia Grafonola with a number of classical records."

"Gracious me," Virginia exclaimed as they stood waiting for Dave to start their car. "I could have stayed in there all day, there were so many beautiful things to admire as well as wish for."

"You're only voicing the opinion of the majority of the people of Richmond," Uncle Henry replied. "You know it is a fine store, for they carry everything in the housefurnishing line from the lowest to whatever you desire to pay, with every article absolutely as good as they guarantee and their popular plan of monthly payments has helped many a young couple to begin housekeeping properly. I've dealt with them for years, for, to my mind, a ramble through their store is an afternoon pleasantly and profitably spent."

"Now suppose we go to lunch," said Henry as they left after luncheon. "There is a little business I wish to attend to before the closing hour."

Arriving at the Citizens National Bank, Uncle introduced the young folks to John W. Crooke, the cashier of the bank, after which he deposited a thousand dollars to the young folks' credit

as an additional gift to begin life on.

"The Citizens National is the largest and most progressive bank in the county," he said, "being established since 1905, and with whom I have done business for years. While they are conservative in all their dealings, yet their reliable methods of doing business have won for them the confidence of the entire community."

"I see by their latest report they had on hand resources amounting to over \$1,000,000.00, with capital stock and surplus and undivided profits of over \$600,000 which is strength sufficient to keep any man from worrying as to whether or not his account is safe. Then again, their deposits of around \$700,000 are something any bank should be proud of, showing the absolute confidence of all classes of people in this institution."

Henry also insisted upon Virginia opening a personal checking account "to pay your household and dressing bills," said he. "It prevents losing money through carelessness or theft, and gives you an indisputable receipt for every account paid."

"Their statement almost made me dizzy," said the Major. "All those big totals of capital, surplus and deposits."

"The Citizens National is one of the strongest banks in Central Kentucky," replied Henry as they lit their cigars after leaving the bank. "When you consider their wonderful steady growth, it speaks well for the confidence reposed in them. They are members of the Federal Reserve System, in fact, every department is under direct supervision of the United States government. Their banking quarters have lately been remodeled, as you could see and they have a thoroughly fireproof and burglarproof vault, with safety deposit boxes, that is one of the best in Kentucky."

"They do a big business here, for their Board of Directors are business men of known responsibility and with their immense resources they are able to finance any kind of an account that comes within the scope of good legitimate banking procedure. I have carried my account here for years."

"I guess we had better arrange for our flowers," said Uncle, as they left the bank. "I want to make arrangements for the decorations for our first reception next week."

It was but a few minutes' ride out to the beautiful Richmond Green Houses. Henry introduced them to Mr. M. S. Pontich, the proprietor, who came forward to wait upon them.

Virginia expressed great surprise at the magnitude of the floral display, for they found a complete and varied assortment of the choicest grade of flowers, plants, ferns, palms, etc.

"I noticed you didn't spend much time in telling what kind of flowers you wanted," said Paul, aside to Uncle, as Mr. Pontich wrapped up for Virginia a dozen beautiful roses.

"I didn't have to," quickly asserted Uncle Henry. "When you have lived here as long as I have you'll know that Mr. Pontich knows 'how' and what to use in the way of floral decorations, once he understands the occasion and the amount you wish to expend. All right, Virginia, we're with you."

"That's one thing I live in hopes of having," said Virginia, as they were riding back to town. "A little green house of my own. Hasn't he some beautiful flowers and those beautiful Easter lilies!"

"Indeed they have," replied Henry. "Their line of roses, lilies, carnations, sweet peas, hyacinths and daffodils are the best one can procure, and we are fortunate in having Mr. Pontich as a decorator, whose excellent taste in suggesting the appropriate decorations required for a party, church, banquet, or wedding event keeps the Richmond Green Houses one of the busiest firms here. Then being a member of the Florist Telegraph Delivery, they can take orders and deliver in any city in the United States and Canada."

"What was that quiet little order you put in on the side?" laughingly inquired Paul.

"Just a little surprise for Virginia," whispered Henry. "I told M. S. to make up a beautiful box of flowers for Virginia's birthday next week in your name and to reserve us a suitable number of roses for her suite at the hotel every day. One thing you must always remember, my boy, (laying his arms affectionately across Paul's shoulder) just because you are married, don't forget your wife still loves flowers as she did while you courted her. A great many married men overlook a bet there. Pontich does a big business here, for with their own big green house their flowers are always fresh and that means something."

"Well," said Uncle, "after this running around we have forgotten to buy any hardware." "I'm glad you folks woke up," laughed Paul, "for I was wondering what Virginia was going to cook with."

"Easy to settle that point," replied Uncle. "We'll drive down to the Richmond Welch Store, our hardware department store, and after I introduce you to Mr. R. H. Embree, the manager, you can pick out anything you want. They carry a tremendous stock."

"Virginia was soon deeply interested in her purchases, buying a Copper Lad combination coal and wood range; a full line of 'Lisk' model enameled ware, an array of aluminum ware, a handsome Winchester carving set, half a dozen Pyrex cooking ware, a beautiful chest of Community silverware in their 'Patrician' pattern, a non-breakable thermos jar to take on their auto trips, and a complete array of accessories."

At Uncle's suggestion they also selected a "Mirrow" Aluminum roaster "for your first Thanksgiving turkey," said he, "and don't you think we had best select several of those pretty Rochester Casseroles and a Universal electric coffee pot? They add so much to a table, I think."

"I was just wishing you would include them," said Virginia, fully. "Thank you so much."

"The next thing we want is a Duplex Fireless Cooker, for you will find its operation will save you time for calling and other social duties, and pick out a set of that 'Blue Bird' china, for they are all open stock patterns."

"It's a pleasure to buy at a store like that," exclaimed Virginia, as they drove away again "and what a stock that was, especially in the line of household goods. Is there anything the Richmond Welch Store do not carry?"

"Not in the hardware line there isn't," replied Henry. "They have the largest stock of builders' and carpenters' hardware, and the best line of accessories for the housewife in or around Richmond with a unique self-serve grocery department that you will find saves you many dollars on your grocery bill. I like to trade there."

"Paul," remarked Uncle, as they left Mr. Perry, "you probably think you know it all, but a business man in these days must have a knowledge of up-to-date business methods, so we will drive over to Lexington and visit the Miller School of Business on Main street—just in front of the court house. They have a splendid commercial school, in one of the most modern business homes in the state, over the Woolworth Stores, and from a personal acquaintance with a large number of their students, I know that when they graduate and leave the college, they are thoroughly competent to take a position of the greatest responsibility."

It was only an hour's run to Lexington, Uncle pointing out the beautiful scenery and prominent homes en route. After arriving at the college and presenting the young folks to Dr. E. G. B. Mann the president, and Miss Maude Miller, the vice president and superintendent of the school, Uncle continued:

"Their course of training is very thorough and, during the time that the school has been here it has graduated a large number of students, who are very successful business men and women. They teach the Gregg system of shorthand, giving personal instruction to every student, and it does not take a lifetime to learn it, for they use the most improved method of teaching with the 'touch system' of typewriting. In addition they use the new Dictation Method in shorthand which means dictation from the first day you enter school."

"Do you mean that the Miller students are able to take dictation of flowers for Virginia's birth-

**\$10.00**

**IN GOLD**

for the neatest and most artistic correct solution to the puzzle in this story. Read the story carefully and send your answer to the Puzzle Editor, Richmond Daily Register by Thursday, Mar. 2nd. Name of winner will be published Saturday, Mar. 4th.

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